

Glass Factory Excavation To Resume

The first professional archaeological excavation on the site of the old glass manufactory of John Frederick Amelung near Frederick, Md., has been pronounced a success by Paul N. Perrot, director of the Corning Museum of Glass. Undertaken by the Corning Museum, with the cooperation of the Smithsonian Institution and the assistance of Colonial Williamsburg, the excavation was a "preliminary dig" to determine whether more extensive exploration of the Amelung ruins would be worthwhile.

Both Perrot and Ivor Noel Hume, archaeological director of the excavation concluded that further work would be justified. "We hope to be back next year to carry on the work," Perrot said. The factory, which was established by John Frederick Amelung in 1785, operated until 1795. Noted for quality of material and skilled engraving, the products produced by Amelung during that 10-year period are considered among the most sophisticated and elegant glassware of 18th Century America.

Amelung and his work were known to Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, among others. When the factory closed many of its glassmakers migrated to the Middle West, taking the skills they had learned from Amelung with them.

Although it is too early to

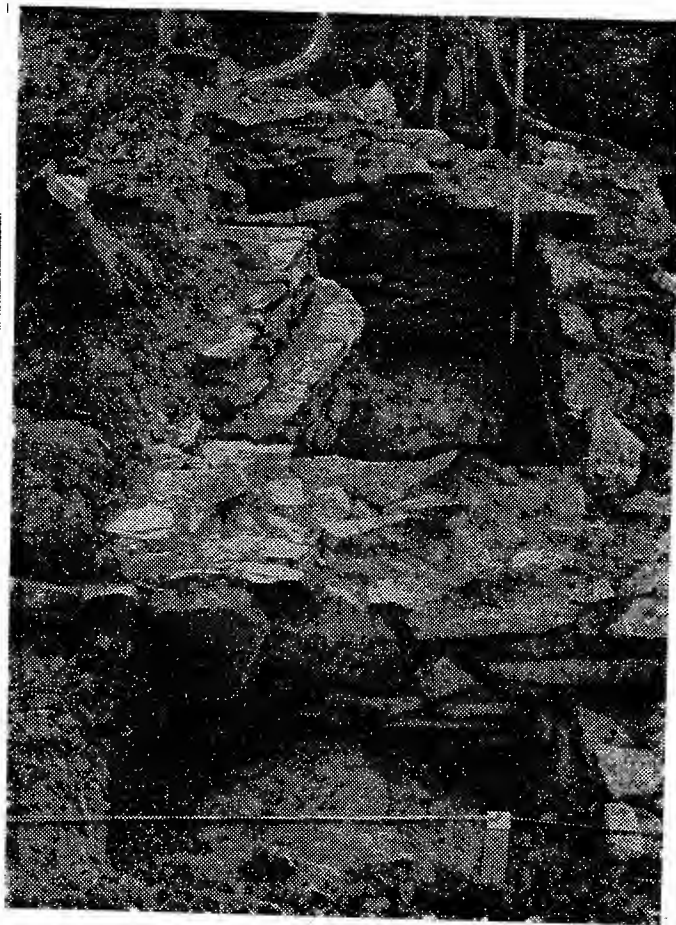


An example of Amelung's glassware, it is called "Tobias and the Angel Flip." Amelung's products were considered among the most elegant glassware of 18th century America.

be sure, several of the glass, crucible and furnace fragments discovered during the preliminary dig "may prove to represent a little known aspect of Amelung's production," excavation officials said.

The many test trenches, dug over an area extending for more than 550 feet also unearthed the remains of a large previously unknown structure.

The location of the Amelung factory was known previously, and officials said that amateur explorations had spoiled some of the site.



The Corning Museum of Glass Photos

Newly excavated foundation at the site of the John Frederick Amelung glass manufactory near Frederick, Md.